



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**GHANAIAN DRUG TRAFFICKER AND TRANSPORTER EXTRADITED  
FOR SENDING MORE THAN \$10 MILLION WORTH OF HEROIN  
TO THE U.S.**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that EVAN KAWESI ATTAH, the leader of a Ghana-based narcotics trafficking organization responsible for sending more than \$10 million worth of heroin to New York City, and ELIZABETH MANU-OWUSU, one of ATTAH's transporters, have been extradited to the United States from Ghana on charges of conspiracy to import and distribute heroin into and within the United States.

The Indictment, and papers filed by the United States in Ghana seeking ATTAH's and MANU-OWUSU's extradition, charge that ATTAH and MANU-OWUSU worked with other co-conspirators in 2004 and 2005 to import heroin into the United States and to distribute the heroin for ultimate resale in New York City. Specifically, the Indictment alleges that in October 2004, ATTAH

sent a courier from Ghana to the Bronx, New York with heroin that the courier had previously ingested. Similarly, the Indictment charges that in November 2004, ATTAH gave quantities of heroin to MANU-OWUSU in Ghana, which she also ingested, for delivery to the Bronx, New York. In December 2004, ATTAH and MANU-OWUSU were arrested by officials in Ghana working with the Ghanaian Narcotics Control Board, and were extradited yesterday to Manhattan federal court.

According to the extradition papers, in December 2004, following her arrest in Ghana, MANU-OWUSU allegedly admitted to the Ghanaian Police that she was transporting heroin received from ATTAH in Ghana, through London, and into the United States. More specifically, MANU-OWUSU allegedly admitted that she was traveling to Chicago and that the heroin which she was transporting was ultimately going to be brought into New York City for distribution. Following her arrest, MANU-OWUSU led law enforcement in Ghana to ATTAH's residence where ATTAH was identified by MANU-OWUSU and arrested. In addition, after his arrest, ATTAH allegedly admitted buying the heroin which MANU-OWUSU was transporting. The extradition papers also outlined other co-conspirators who have allegedly confirmed that they obtained heroin from ATTAH and worked to distribute the heroin in the New York City.

Yesterday, ATTAH and MANU-OWUSU appeared before the

Honorable Theodore H. Katz, United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of New York, and entered a plea of not guilty to the charges in the Indictment. If convicted on all of the charges, ATTAH and MANU-OWUSU face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years imprisonment. ATTAH and MANU-OWUSU are scheduled to appear before the Honorable Laura Taylor Swain, United States District Judge, at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2005, for a pre-trial conference.

Mr. KELLEY praised the outstanding investigative efforts of the DEA's New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, the New York City Police Department, the New York State Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the United States Marshal Service, which transported the defendants from Ghana to New York.

Assistant United States Attorneys AMY FINZI and GLEN G. McGORTY are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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